

MINUTES
OF THE
SIXTY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
LIBERTY
Baptist Association

HELD WITH THE

Rice Church

Madison Co., Ala.

September 13, 14, and 15

1900

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Clerk, PERRY HENDERSON, Athens, Ala.

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AMERICAN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

Sixty-third Annual Session

OF THE

Liberty Baptist Association

HELD WITH

RICE CHURCH,

MADISON CO., ALABAMA.

September 13th, 14th and 15th, 1900.

LIMESTONE DEMOCRAT PRINT.
ATHENS, ALA.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

- 1 Call to order by former Moderator.
- 2 Annual or introductory sermon.
- 3 Call for church letters and enroll delegates.
- 4 Permanent organization by electing Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer.
- 5 Call for petitionary letters.
- 6 Correspondents and visitors.
- 7 Appointment of committees by Moderator.
 - a On religious services, to report on call.
 - b On synopsis of Church letters.
 - c On Finance.
- 8 Call for report of standing committees.
 - a Committee on Missions.
 - b Committee on Education.
 - c Committee on Temperance.
 - d Committee on Religious Literature.
 - e Committee on Indigent Ministers.
 - f Committee on Prayer Meeting.
 - g Committee on Orphans' Home.
 - h Committee on Woman's Work.
 - i Report of Executive Committee.
- 10 Appoint a place for meeting.
- 11 Appoint a brother to preach the introductory sermon.
- 12 Announce standing committees to report at next meeting.
- 13 Appoint messengers to other bodies.
- 14 Miscellaneous business.
- 15 Report on Sunday-schools.
- 16 Adjournment.

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ORDAINED MINISTERS.

Brett, R.	Huntsville.	Webster, W. P.	Haden.
Abernathy, T. C.	Elkmont	Rice, H. E.	New Market
Jacks, W. I.	New Market.	Taylor, L. W.	Huntsville.
Crutcher, N. D.	Madison.	Parker, A. J.	New Market.
Hillard, J. W.	Rep.	Pettus, W. H.	New Market.
Balch, W. M.	Nebo.	Stamps, Mc.	Huntsville.
Hopper, W. C.	Poplar Creek.		

EXECUTIVE BOARD.

J. P. Hampton, Chairman; R. E. Pettus, Secretary : Rev. R. Brett,
Rev. H. E. Rice, Rev. J. W. Hillard and J. T. Cliff.

MINUTES,

The delegates composing the Sixty-third Annual Session of Liberty Association of Missionary Baptists met with Rice Church, Madison County, Alabama, on Thursday, September 13, 1900, at 11 o'clock a.m.

The exercises were opened by Eld. N. D. Cruther by reading 17th chapter of John. Prayer was led by Eld. Joseph Shackelford.

Eld. Mack Stamps read as a lesson introductory to sermon 16th chapter of Corinthians. Prayer by Eld. S. J. Ausley.

Eld. R. Brett, according to appointment a year ago, preached the introductory sermon from the text, "Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Mathew 18:16.

At the close of sermon the Senior Moderator took the chair and asked the pleasure of the Association. A motion prevailed and adjournment had until 1:30 p.m. Prayer by Eld. J. A. Eaves.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Association met pursuant to adjournment. The Moderator and Clerk occupying their respective seats.

The Moderator appointed as reading clerks Elds. W. H. Pettus and N. D. Crutcher.

Upon call of roll by Churches the following responded

by letters and delegates:

Buelah—M. P. Norton, J. W. Freeman, B. C. Freeman, W. J. Yarbrrough.

Bethel—G. W. Webster, A. C. Williams, Eld. W. P. Webster.

Charity East—A. J. Perry, J. B. Honea.

Charity West—Dock Cintrell, W. F. Wallace.

Dallas Avenue—Rev. Mack Stamps, R. E. Pettus, W. B. Wheeler.

Enon—R. C. Griggs, J. C. Burch.

1st Ch. Huntsville—Eld. R. Brett, Dr. J. P. Hampton, M. B. Neece.

Locas Grove—H. M. Teague, Dr. B. J. Puckett, T. M. Beyless, J. J. Lawler.

Madison—Eld. W. M. Balch.

Mt. Pisgah—W. J. Baugher, E. E. Key.

Mt. Zion—Eld. W. H. Pettus, Polk Jones, M. D. Pettus, T. J. Wall, M. A. Taylor.

New Market—Not represented.

New Zion—Eld. N. D. Crutcher, M. H. Crutcher, J. T. Cliff.

Piney Grove—W. N. Hargrove, J. E. Hargrove.

Poplar Creek—Not represented.

Rice—Eld. H. E. Rice, W. A. Power, J. A. Fanning.

Round Island—Perry Henderson.

Temperance Oak—H. J. Boyd.

Union Grove—Jerry Riddle, G. W. Taylor.

Walnut Hill—Eld. T. C. Abernathy, S. E. Abernathy, C. S. Thorne.

After the delegates were enrolled, permanent organization was had by election of Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer.

By motion of R. E. Pettus the rules were suspended, and Dr. J. P. Hampton was unanimously elected for the seventeenth time as Moderator.

By motion of Eld. N. D. Crutcher, the same action was had in regard to Clerk and Treasurer, and Perry Henderson was elected by a rising vote to fill the place of Clerk and Treasurer.

Upon call for Petitionary Letters, West Huntsville Church presented a letter asking to be received as a member of this body. By a proper motion the church was received, and the right hand of fellowship extended by the Moderator. The church sent as delegates, G. W. Lehman and H. M. Rich.

The following correspondents and visitors were present and invited to seats with us:

Muscle Shoals Association—Eld. Joseph Shackelford.

Tennessee River Association—Eld. J. A. Eaves.

Salem Tennessee Association—Eld. P. T. Henderson.

The Alabama Baptist—Eld. J. A. Howard.

Howard College—Eld. S. J. Ausley.

The Moderator appointed the pastor and deacons of Rice Church as committee on Devotional Exercises.

On synopsis of Church Letters—W. B. Wheeler, H. M. Teague and T. J. Wall.

On Finance—W. A. Power, W. J. Baugher and M. D. Pettus.

Rev. Mack Stamps was added to committee on State Missions.

By motion of R. E. Pettus reports on Missions shall be the order first thing after the reading of minutes to-morrow morning.

The report on Religious Literature was as follows:

RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

To the Liberty Baptist Association in session at Rice Church, Madison county.

First of all we would recommend the careful study of the Word of God in preference to all literature. We desire to see our denominational literature more used especially the Alabama Baptist organ of the Baptists of our State. It ought to be read in every Baptist home in the State. The per cent of the Baptists within the bounds of this Association who take and read our Denominational Literature is exceedingly small. We insist that more of our reading Baptists subscribe for the Foreign Mission Journal, published at Richmond, Va., our Home Field with headquarters at Nashville. The Sunday-school Board furnishes an unlimited amount of splendid religious literature. We hope the State Board of Missions will in the near future re-establish the colportage system in Alabama.

W. E. PETTUS, Chairman Committee.

Upon motion to adopt the report the subject was discussed by Elds. J. A. Howard and P. T. Henderson, after which the report was adopted.

Committee on Devotional Exercises reported that there would be preaching to-night by Eld. Mack Stamps, and to-morrow at 11 a.m. by Eld. Joseph Shackelford.

Report on Orphans' Home was as follows:

ORPHANS' HOME.

There is no interest fostered by our denomination that appeals more directly to the sympathy of our people than that of the Orphans' Home. If the State can have her schools of corrections, Asylums, homes for her deaf and blind, it does seem like a denomination so strong numerically and financially as ours would come to the rescue of the homeless children of our unfortunate or deceased brethren and sisters, and aid our big souled and sympathetic brother, J. W. Stewart, the Superintendent, in better equipping the Home for the comfort of those there, and those to be sent. We may be building wiser than we know. Who can tell whose children may yet become its inmates? Because there are no children there from this county is no reason there may not be. Perhaps you did not know this Association is represented there. God bless this Home. Brethren, less do our part in maintaining it.

Respectfully submitted,

M. D. PETTUS, Chairman.

Upon motion to adopt the report, the discussion was deferred until to-morrow in anticipation of the presence of Brother J. W. Stewart, the Superintendent.

The report on Prayer Meeting is as follows:

PRAYER MEETING.

To the Liberty Association: Dear Brethren—We, your Committee on Prayer Meeting, beg leave to submit the following:

Some of the churches are keeping up regular prayer meeting while others do not. We should be thankful that some are faithful; for the promise is to them: "Be thou faithful until death and I will give thee a crown." Rev. 2:10.

It seems to me that many do not regard prayer as a duty, but a privilege; and hence they can go or not as they please. I believe it is a positive command. If it is, then it is sinful to neglect it. See Thes. 3:17, 18. Some one will say I can pray at home; so you should, but when a meeting is appointed, it is the duty of every member to be present if possible; for we are commanded not to forsake the assembling ourselves together. See Heb. 10:25. Surely no one would deny the duty of personal prayer, because this is our source of help and strength. No one can have fellowship with God without having communion with Him. Prayer is the source of communion. It has been said that prayer is the key that unlocks the door where all our provisions are. If we are weak He is strong; if we are poor He is rich; if we are sinful He is righteous; if we are

unworthy He is holy, and for His sake the Father will bless those that ask him in Jesus name. If we individually need and his help can be obtained, why not ask his churches to seek his help, for He has said: "Seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you." Matt. 7:9. We believe every individual should have set times to pray and that nothing should keep him from going to a throne of grace at that time. Every church should have appointed times for prayers and all her members should attend it possible. If we could realize our great need of help, and would call on God our Father in faith through the spirit in Christ's name, what blessing we would receive.

Will not each pastor bring this matter before his congregation by preaching on the subject and duty of prayer? The good Lord direct us and lead us to himself. Amen.

Respectfully submitted,

N. D. CRUTCHER.

A motion was made to adopt the report, and the subject was discussed by Eld. N. D. Crutcher, at close of which, by motion of Eld. H. E. Rice, further discussion was deferred until to-night after preaching. Adjournment was then had until 7:30 p.m. Prayer by Eld. R. Brett.

NIGHT SESSION.

Association met pursuant to an adjournment, and was opened with prayer by Eld. J. A. Howard. Eld. W. H. Pettus read as lesson 19th div. of Psalm, followed by prayer by Brother R. E. Pettus. Eld. Mack Stamps took the stand preached from Gen. 37:22. At close of sermon and song the Moderator assumed control of the Association and the discussions continued on subject of prayer. Elds. W. M. Balleh, A. J. Parker and Dr. Joseph Shackelford made good talks on the subject; making imperative the necessity of our frequent supplications at a throne of grace. The report was adopted.

Query—R. E. Pettus by request.

"Is Foot Washing a Church Ordinance?"—Elds. P. T. Henderson, R. Brett, J. A. Howard and J. A. Eaves spoke on the question, showing conclusively the fallacy of foot washing as a church ordinance.

By motion of Eld. R. Brett adjournment was had until 9 o'clock to-morrow morning. Prayer by Eld. J. A. Eaves.

SECOND DAYS PROCEEDINGS.

Friday Sept. 14th, 9 a.m.—In absence of Moderator and Clerk and the hour for opening of the Association having arrived, R. E. Pettus moved that Eld. R. Brett act as temporary Moderator. Carried.

Session opened with prayer by Eld. J. Eaves; Brother R. E. Pettus acted as temporary Clerk.

Brother R. E. Pettus presented Eld. W. Crumpton, representative of our State Board of Missions.

By motion of Eld. N. D. Crutcher the order of business was displaced, and the subject of Education introduced by reading the report.

EDUCATION.

It affords me great pleasure to say a few words on this subject. We see every day more interest manifested in the cause of Education. We are glad to see our denomination take steps towards Educating the ministry. Our denomination and the present age demand it. While we admit that a greater number souls have been saved through instrumentality of an uneducated ministry, if they had have had educational advantages, what might they have done in God's name?

Let us bestir ourselves to give more to educate the ministry than we have ever done before. We thank God for the institutions of learning we have in our beloved State. The Howard College, The Judson and The North Alabama Baptist Collegiate Institute.

Respectfully submitted,

H. E. RICE.

Discussion was had by Elders Jos. Shackelford, S. J. Ausley, N. D. Crutcher, P. T. Henderson and Bro. R. E. Pettus.

Pending the discussion the following was offered by the Clerk: That preaching be dispensed with and the business of the Association be continued. Lost.

Bro. E. J. Cambron, Moderator of the William Cary Association was announced as being present and was invited to a seat with us.

The hour for preaching having arrived and according to appointment Dr. Jos. Shackelford took the stand. After singing and prayer led by Eld. R. Brett, Dr. Shackelford read as a lesson a portion of 2d chap. of Acts. His subject was based upon the text found in Acts 28:22.

At the conclusion of the sermon Eld. R. Brett moved that the practice of calling of delegates by Finance Committee during services be hereafter abandoned. Carried. Dr. W. B. Crumpton was granted permission to distribute some literature. Eld. J. A. Howard presented the claims of the Alabama Baptist as solicited subscribers to the same.

According to agreement the ladies were granted the sole use of the church after dinner until 2:30 p.m for the purpose of organizing a Woman's Auxiliary Mission Society; the proceeding of which will be found at conclusion of these minutes. Adjourned. Benediction by Eld. R. Brett.

2:30 p.m. Association called to order by the Moderator. Prayer by Eld. S. J. Ausley.

The discussion of the subject of Education was resumed and speeches made by Dr. J. P. Hampton and Dr. W. B. Crumpton; at this juncture Brother J. W. Steward was announced and invited to a seat with us.

The discussion on Education was concluded by Eld. R. Brett, and a collection in cash and pledges taken as follows:

CHURCHES.

Bethel.....	\$ 2 00	Dallas Avenue	\$10 00
First Church, Huntsville. 50 00		Mt. Pisgah.....	2 50
Mt. Zion.....	20 00	Piney Grove	2 00
Temperance Oak.....	1 00	Union Grove	1 50
West Huntsville.....	2 00		

Total churches, \$90 50.

INDIVIDUALS.

Carter Rice.....	pd \$ 1 00	Dr. Joseph Shackelford
W. J. Yarbrough.....	pd 1 00	tuition of one student
Perry Henderson.....	pd 1 00	at Trinity School, In-
J. A. Fanning	pd 2 50	dividual pledges and
Dr. J. P. Hampton.....	pd 10-00	cash
T. Green.....	pd 1 00	\$16 50

The report on Education was then adopted.

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL AT TRINITY.

The Board of Trustees of the North Alabama Baptist Collegiate Institute and Normal School at Trinity, Ala., offer their Seventh annual report to the Liberty Association. The school closed its Seventh session in May last with a total enrollment of 63 pupils. This was a smaller number than we have ever had, but the causes were evident. It was like opening a new school where no effort was made to secure scholars. Our President was unable to canvass for pupils on account of sickness in his family and his removal to his home near Trinity, and the Baptists of North Alabama did not seem willing to patronize their own denominational schools. We hope that our next may be more successful. The Trustees have again secured the services of Dr. Shackelford for the next session as President of the school, who will provide such assistants as he may need. The Trustees passed the following resolution at their last meeting which we commend to the serious and prayerful consideration of your body, and trust that you may feel it to be your duty to comply with the request:

"Resolved. That the Associations to which this school belongs be requested to send from two to four students to our school, and provide for the payment of the Trustees of the same."

One hundred dollars will pay the tuitions of four pupils. Cannot the Association raise that amount and send four students to our school, who may need their help? It is desirable that the Association show this much interest in the school.

We respectfully notify you that the terms of the following Trustees expires at this session of your body; viz: Perry Henderson and S. T. Green. Their places will have to be filled, either by re-appointment or the appointment of others by our President.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH SHACKELFORD, Secretary.

Report received.

Letters that were delayed from First Church and New Zion were read and delegates enrolled.

REPORT OF WOMAN'S WORK.

The obligation to evangelize the world, to make disciples of all nations, rest on each Christian man and woman. No one is lost in the multitude. Jesus sees and speaks to each and clearly has woman heard, "Behold, I have set before thee, a door opened which none can shut." "Go, Let go, Help go," has been the motto since the first woman realized that she and every follower were held account-

table for spreading abroad the glad tidings of great joy for the conversion of all mankind.

When the individual Christian—each ransomed and sacred soul shall be fully possessed of this idea and shall discharge this obligation, we shall be nearing the end, getting in sight of the reconciliation of all to God : for

“The world swings out toward the light.

And skies are growing clearer,
The gray of dawn is on the hills,
The golden glow draws nearer.”

“Since Calvary and Olivet
There is no hopeless sorrow,
Wrong ever builds a tottering throne,
And Christ shall reign to-morrow.”

Some one has said that the “mighty portals of God’s Providence can not be forced by any power on earth, but it may be set ajar by the prayers of consecrated womanhood,” whose work may be said to be fore-ordained of God and whose prayer has ever been,

“Use me God, in thy great harvest field,
Which stretcheth far and wide like a wide sea.

The gatherers are so few, I fear the precious yeild
Will suffer loss. Oh, find a place for me.”

“A place where best the strength I have will tell,
It may be one, the other toilers shun;
Be it a wide or narrow place ’tis well,
So that the work it holds, be only done.”

To pass in review, the work done by women during the brief existence of their organizations seems a little less than a miracle. Prayer for the coming of His kingdom has been complied with, a work fraught with obstacles which would have daunted any leader, not moved by an irresistible conviction of duty—a conviction asking that which seized Paul when he said: “Woe is me, if I preach not the gospel.”

Such conviction took hold of the women who organized these societies and was laid upon Christian women throughout our country, who have found with each passing duty an accompaniment of richest blessings, filling their hearts with new zeal, faith and courage, not only to labor on, but to give liberally of their substance for the glory of God and uplift of humanity, and she is not “slothful in business” for the statement is made that woman’s gifts go to the Board treasurers with the regularity of clock work, and as God has prospered

The first record of Woman's Missionary Organization is Oct. 1, 1800, when the Boston Female Society for Missionary purposes was formed by Baptists and Congregationalists with Miss Mary Webb a Baptist as Secretary and Treasurer. Hers is one name that Boston people should reverence and never suffer forgotten. She was a helpless cripple with but little of this world's goods and a seemingly limited sphere of usefulness, but she proved one of the weak things chosen of God to confound the mighty. It is said that her little green baize hand-carriage could be seen wherever there was poverty and suffering in Boston.

She put herself in correspondence with nearly sixty Associations of women in different parts of the State and inaugurated a monthly concert of prayer. This ceased to exist after her death. In 1802 a Home Missionary Society was organized. 1819 marks the date of the first general organization of Woman's Work in Methodist church. 1834 the first General Missionary Society—one for promotion of female education in the East was formed. In 1861 a Woman's Union Missionary Society was inaugurated in the same parlor, where 25 years before the same subject had been discussed or presented. Twenty-three societies were formed during the seventies. At Boston in 1881 the women of the North organized the Woman's Baptist Foreign Mission Society; six years later in Chicago was formed a Woman's Baptist Home Mission Society. Still others followed, but not until 1888 did our Southern Baptist women heed the voice, "Go forward," which done, in three years fourteen states were joined heartily in devising ways and means, to "send the blessed gospel light, that it might shine from shore to shore, lighting the world forever more."

In 1888 various State Committees were urged to send lady delegates to Richmond, Va., to take such action as might be deemed advisable after full consultation. The result was the organization of the Woman's Missionary Union, Auxiliary to the Southern Baptist Convention, with a regularly appointed Executive Committee located at Baltimore. Miss M. E. McIntosh was first President. Mrs. Chas. A. Stakely, of Washington now acts in that capacity. Miss Annie W. Armstrong of Baltimore has served as Corresponding Secretary since its organization and none more thoroughly pious, consecrated, capable woman could have been found. She is truly one of God's chosen women.

The close of the first year of organized effort by Southern Baptist women showed an increase in contribution of nearly \$10,000 over the preceding years. A history of twelve years shows \$616,238, put into the three S. B. O. Board Treasuries by this Union.

There has been a growing in Missions among the Baptist wo-

men of the South and a great increase in Missionary zeal and enthusiasm ever since the organization of this Union. Especially is this true of Alabama. And yet many Christian women with their churches do not realize the weight and importance of the obligations they have assumed. Are we encouraging by our sympathy; upholding by our prayers; supporting by our gifts; holding back none of our Lord's money as his stewards—those dear women who have gone as our representatives to encounter all the evils of heathenism which must fall, for already? "There is a sound of a going among the mulberry trees." The kingdoms of this world are becoming the kingdoms of our Lord and his Anointed.

Woman has caught somewhat of the spirit that brought the Savior of the world down from Heaven, by their willingness to abandon all things in order to carry to the heathen people "the unsearchable riches of Christ."

"From Greenland's icy mountains, from India's coral strand,
O'er hill and vale and crested peak throughout God's boundless land
The tender voice of Jesus calls in low and sweet refrain,
Go, spread the right of gospel truth abroad on every hand.
Tell those who bow to stocks and stones that Christ has died to save
His blood for them has freely flowed, His life for them he gave.

Put on the gospel armor, unsheathe the spirit's sword,
And bind their hopeless broken hearts, with comforts of His word,
Tell them the old, old story of Calvary's cruel tree,
And that the blood to souls applied shall set all nations free.
Go forth with love and courage; no evil can betide,
With meek-eyed faith your life-boat, and our Savior as your guide.

"Oh, loving daughters of his care, whose souls, secure he keeps,
Reach out your arms to sisters who beyond the rolling deep
Shed tears of penitence, sincere to god's of man's device—
Go, tell them of our gracious God and of our loving Christ
Who stands and knocks at every heart and begs admittance there
Oh! take the banner of the cross and plant its standard fair
From shore to shore, on crested waves of ocean, write His name.
And tell that from the courts of heaven, our blessed Savior came,
To save and bless a sin-cursed world, and loose the tyrants' chains
Point their dark souls to lands of light beyond surging tide,
Where mansions are prepared for all who make His cross their guide!"

MRS. M. B. NEECE.

Huntsville.

On motion to adopt the report, Dr. W. B. Crumpton made a strong speech in support of the organization, setting forth the mighty works that were being done by the agency

and influence of the Woman's Mission Societies. Adopted.

Reports on the various Missions were then read as follows: Foreign by Eld. R. Brett.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The Master's commands are all of equal force, and should be regarded by us as of equal importance. The command to baptize, and the command to "preach the gospel to every creature" rest upon the same authority—and the violation of the one is no more a heresy than the violation of the other and the church that fails to baptize, is no more unscriptual than the church that fails to "preach the gospel to every creature." God help us to preach and practice His gospel.

We have had over thirteen hundred converts in Foreign lands during the past year, the greatest number of any year in the history of the Southern Baptist Convention. Ten years ago if we reported forty or fifty converts we greatly rejoiced, but the Lord seems to be opening the windows of heaven and pouring out such blessings as our hearts can scarcely contain.

The Southern Baptists have within the last two years increased their contributions to Foreign Missions 50 per cent. and will each church and each individual within the bounds of our Association feel that the Master has laid this obligation upon them as an individual matter, just as he has the command to be baptized?

The war in China will open that country to our Missionaries as never before, and we should be ready to meet this enlarged opportunity.

Respectfully,

RUTHFORD BRETT,
A. J. PARKER,
W. P. WEBSTER.

HOME MISSIONS.

That much has been accomplished for the Master throughout Foreign Missions we all greatfully admit and no doubt much more will be done.

We would not under any circumstance say or do anything knowingly that would be indicative of an unpopular estimate on our part of the importance of caring for the foreign field, neither would we try to influence any particular to lessen his appreciation of those who have served home ties, sacrificed position and even given their life's blood in order that those who know not God might hear of the life and death of his blessed Son and be brought to know Christ in the pardon of all their sins, and be saved, "For there is none other

name given among men whereby he can be saved." Still we believe the time has come when more attention should be devoted to Home Missions.

There are several reasons why we say this. One is we can easily see through the various reports of the home work the effectiveness of the labor in the home fields. The fact that one-eighth of all the existing Baptist Churches in the South have been organized by the Home Mission Board during the period of its existence is sufficient to convince every one that if nothing else had been done the money and labor have been well expended, and God's cause greatly honored.

Another is our foreign population is rapidly increasing and it is incumbent upon us to see that they have the gospel preached to them for the purpose of saving their souls. Should the opportunity not be given them they will not only lack eternal life which is the first and highest consideration, but their influence will to a greater or less degree retard the work of grace among our native fellow men. Then every recruit at home increases the number to work in all fields, and while this work at home would increase the number numerically it would also build up spiritually, thus strengthening the foundation underlying all Mission Work. We may be in error, but are under the impression that some of our Home Missionaries sometimes suffer for the necessities of life and fail to have our prayers because it is difficult for some of us to realize that in our own country even in our glorious Southland, there are those places of destitution and sections inhabited by those who have not the privilege of hearing the gospel. This is true on some of our Western frontiers and in our mountain districts.

But the chief reason for our redoubling our energies in the Home Mission Work is due to the fact that our newly acquired territory materially alters the conditions and introduces new phases of Christian work. Never before have such opportunities been offered our people. The heathen is now certainly at our door. What will we do about the matter? It is gratifying to note the wonderful work that has been accomplished by our missionaries under such trying circumstances. They will continue to toil in the Master's vineyard, but how little can they accomplish under existing conditions when we compare it with what should be done after having had the increased opportunities sent to us. While we desire to see the work progress and be extended along all lines we would prayerfully urge upon the Southern Baptist the great need of an increase in the amount of home work.

Respectfully submitted,

S. R. BUTLER, Chairman.

STATE MISSIONS BY ELD. MACK STAMPS.

Our State Board of Missions has been organized twenty-five years. Before this time (1875) the Home Board of Atlanta did some State work and the Association had Mission work in their bounds. We have been enabled under God to do a good work during these years, but to-day the need stares us in the face as it ever does, and I am glad we are recognizing this need, and are striving harder to take the destitute portion of our State for our Master's Son.

As new industries are being located in our State we need to bestir ourselves as never before, to give these people the privilege of the gospel; praying God to burden the hearts of his people with this work, and to constrain us to give of ourselves and means to take the destitute places of our State.

Respectfully submitted,

MACK STAMPS.

ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS.

To the Liberty Association—Rice's Church, Ala.

Dear Brethren:—I beg to submit this my report on Associational Missions. In my estimation, no subject before this body, and before the Associations of Alabama and the South, than this is of more importance. In the bounds of Liberty Association we find on every hand the need of funds to carry on the great work, which devolves upon the Baptists to accomplish; and yet churches send up delegates instructed for other purposes, absolutely ignoring the great need of unprovided for work within our own borders. Shall we as Baptists, representing the churches of Liberty Association, sit idle and unconcerned, see the cause of our immediate section suffer because it is name? or shall we awaken to the sensibility of the fact that God holds us responsible for the progress of work at home as well as in the foreign fields. May we to-day realize that within the bounds of this Association, there is a work, a great and important work for us, and may our eyes be turned towards it, and our hands willing to grasp it.

Respectfully submitted,

M. B. NEECE, Chairman.

Upon motion to adopt the several reports the discussion of the subjects were deferred until to-morrow morning.

The subject of Orphan Home, which was laid over on yesterday, was taken up and spoken on by Brother J. W. Stewart, at the close of which a cash collection was taken

of \$9.20 and pledges as follows:

PLEDGES.

Dallas Avenue	\$10 00	Mt. Zion	\$5 00
First Church, Huntsville, support one child.	10 00	Mt. Pisgah,	2 50
Rice	5 00	New Zion.....	2 00
Union Grove	5 00	Temperance Oak.....	1 00
West Huntsville.....	1 00	Walnut Hill.....	1 00

Total, churches, 4,250.

INDIVIDUALS.

W. J. Yarbrough.....pd	\$1 00	J. W. Freeman.....	\$1 00
Dr. J. J. Horton.....	1 00	Mrs. Bettie Powers.....	2 50

Total, \$9.50.

By motion adjourned until 7:30 p.m. Prayer by Eld. N. D. Crutcher.

NIGHT SESSION.

Association assembled persuant to an adjournment. Prayer by Eld. H. E. Rice.

Report on Baptist Young People Union was as follows:

BAPTIST YOUNG PEOPLE UNION.

The Baptist Young People Union of America was organized July 7, 1891, with John H. Chapman of Chicago, Ill., as President, and Rev. H. W. Reed of Lacross, Wis., as Recording Secretary, and from the treasurers report the finances during the year were found to be as follows: \$66,916.61 was received during the year, of which amounts \$41,112.61 is credited to the Baptist Union on account of subscriptions and advertising accounts. The disbursements were \$66,654.76.

The B. Y. P. U., Auxillary the Southern Baptist Convention was organized November 21, 1895, with Dr. L. O. Dawson of Tuscaloosa, as President, and W. W. Gains of Atlanta, as Recording Secretary.

The last anniversary which was the Fourth Annual Convention was held at Louisville, Ky., May 17, 1899. The Committee on Enrollment reported a registered attendance of 177 delegates.

The annual report of the Executive Committee states that the Conventions were held during the year in many of the 'States, and these conventions have been marked by the most earnest and practical work, within the bounds of the Southern Baptist Convention. There are about 2,500 local organizations of the young people doing

more or less educational work in the study of Baptist doctrine, history and missions.

The next anniversary will be held in connection with the sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention.

THE PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Mission is to reach the young, who feel they have passed the Sunday-school stage, and thinks the prayer meeting belongs to the middle age, and who contents themselves with sitting upon the stool of idleness and lounging upon sofas of worthlessness while the great harvest is passing away.

THE OBJECT

is to teach them the three grand cardinal points that lie out before us as a denomination which is the precepts and practices of Baptists doctrines.

Respectfully submitted,

A. H. CRUTCHER, Chairman.

A motion was made to adopt the report upon which Eld. J. A. Howard and R. E. Pettus spoke at some length. Report adopted.

Report on Temperance was read by W. H. Pettus.

TEMPERANCE.

Whilst Temperance means self-control in all things it has been given a specific meaning on account of the intemperate use of ardent spirits; so when we speak of Temperance at present we mean opposition to sale and uses of strong drink as a beverage.

We maintain that the liquor business is the most wide-spread and destructive curse that now effects our country. There are between 240,000 and 250,000 saloons in the United States, these employ 1200,000 to sell from these saloons, that which destroy all that is beautiful and noble in man.

In 1st Cor. 6:10 we read, "That no drunkard shall inherit the Kingdom of God." Some, so called dram drinkers, may say I am not a drunkard. Just how far a man may go in this sin and not be called a drunkard we must let eternity reveal.

Paul says, "If thy brother be grieved with thy meat, now walkest thou not charitably, destroy not with thy meat him for whom Christ died." The dram drinker's influence is hurting the cause of Christ.

We therefore urge total abstinence as a proper attitude against this great evil of strong drink.

Respectfully submitted,

W. H. PETTUS, Chairman of Com.

Dr. J. P. Hampton, R. E. Pettus, Elds. Joseph Shackelford, N. D. Crutcher and R. A. O'Neal made speeches on the subject, at close of which the report was adopted.

By motion of Eld. R. Brett, adjourned until to-morrow 9 a.m.

Saturday September 15th, 9 a.m.—Association called to order by Moderator. Prayer by Eld. R. Brett.

Minutes of previous days meeting read and approved.

The Moderator announced Standing Committees on the various subjects to report at next meeting, to-wit:

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Foreign Missions—Rev. Mack Stamps, W. P. Webster, H. M. Teague.

Home Missions—Rev. R. Brett, M. P. Norton, J. A. Fannin.

State Missions—R. E. Pettus, T. C. Abernathy, M. O. Pettus.

Association Missions—Rev. H. E. Rice, G. W. Taylor, R. C. Griggs.

Education—W. B. Neece, Dr. B. J. Puckett, W. N. Hargrove

Temperance—W. E. Pettus, J. V. Linard, W. A. Power.

Religious Literature—Rev. W. H. Pettus, J. J. Lawler, A. J. Perry.

Orphan Home—Rev. N. D. Crutcher, C. E. Throne, W. J. Baugher.

Woman's Work—Mrs. M. B. Neece, Mrs. H. E. Rice, Miss Mary Glenn.

Young People's Work—S. R. Butler, Rev. W. H. Pettus, Jerry Riddle.

Prayer Meeting—A. J. Parker, M. A. Taylor, Eld. T. C. Abernathy.

Sabbath Schools—W. B. Wheeler, Polk Jones, J. C. Burch.

Indigent Ministers—T. J. Wall, S. E. Abernathy, E. E. Key.

Report of Committee on date of meeting was as follows:

COMMITTEE ON DATE OF MEETING.

We your Committee appointed last Association to confer with other Associations with reference to arranging a list of dates for the meeting of Associations in this section of the State:

Recommend that the date of meeting for this Association be left blank, and that the Executive Committee after conferring further with said Associations be empowered to fix the date for our next

meeting and make announcement of the same as early as possible to all the churches.

Respectfully submitted,

RUTHERFORD BRETT,

N. D. CRUTCHER,

R. E. PETTUS,

Committee.

After proper explanation of the purpose for which the proposed action was taken by Elds. R. Brett and W. B. Compton, the report was adopted.

Report of Committee to nominate an Executive Board was as follows:

EXECUTIVE BOARD COMMITTEE.

We, your Committee, respectively place in nomination as an Executive Board for the ensuing year: Dr. J. P. Hampton, Rev. R. Brett, Rev. H. E. Rice, Rev. J. W. Hillard, Rev. N. D. Crutcher, R. E. Pettus, J. T. Cliff, Rev. W. H. Pettus.

N. D. CRUTCHER,

W. H. PETTUS,

R. G. GRIGGS,

Committee,

Adopted.

Report on Synopsis of Church Letters were as follows:

CHURCH LETTERS.

We the Committee on Synopsis of Church Letters, beg leave to report as follows:

We find two churches New Market and Poplar Creek not represented—nine churches report no Sabbath-schools. The churches in the Association has generally had good revival meetings, having received by baptism one hundred and fifteen members. We find one petitionary letter, which makes a good report. We would earnestly urge the pastors of churches to insist on organizing prayer meetings and Sabbath-schools.

Respectfully submitted,

W. B. WHEELER,

H. M. TEAGUE,

T. J. WALL,

Committee.

Adopted.

Letters from Charity West read and delegates enrolled.

Report of Finance Committee was as follows:

FINACE COMMITTEE.

We your Finance Committee, beg leave to submit the following report. We have received from various churches:

For—	Cash.	Vouchers.
State Missions.....	\$36 30	\$48 79
Home Missions.....	59 70	87 96
Foreign Missions.....		33 01
Associational Missions.....	21 00	
Ministerial Education.....		
Orphans Home.....	50	
Minutes.....	20 30	
Clerks Fee.....		4 25

We have also examined the books of Brother R. E. Pettus, Treasurer of Executive Board, and find them well kept and in a neat condition.

Respectfully submitted,

W. A. POWER,
M. O. PETTUS,
W. J. BAUGHER.

The report was amended by urging the churches to send into the Treasurer of Executive Board ballance of pledges at once. Adopted as amended.

A motion prevailed that all vouchers hereafter be turned over to the Clerk with the Church Letters, and that the Finance Committee handle the money only.

PLACE OF MEETING.

Mt. Zion was unanimously chosen as the place of meeting in 1901; the Executive Board to fix the date as previously agreed upon. Eld. H. E. Rice was chosen to preach the introductory sermon and Eld. R. Brett alternate.

By motion of Eld. N. D. Crutcher a collection was taken to compensate the Clerk for his services, and the amount of \$3.40 received.

By R. Pettus.

Resolved, That this Association adopt Brother M. H. Crutcher as their beneficiary at Howard College for the next year, and we will give our support and co-operation to that end.

A motion was made and carried that the report on Sabbath-school be disposed with and the consequent discussion of the same. For want of time the discussion of Mis-

sions were taken up and the chairman on the various reports yielded their privileges to Eld. W. B. Crumpton, who held the vast audience spell bound for more than an hour, fully presenting the great and momentous work that lies out before us as Missionaries for the Master.

At the close of the sermon, for sermon we must call it prayer was led by Eld. R. Brett, who prayed that the hearts of this people might be touched and that they might see and do their duty in giving the gospel to the destitute.

After prayer a collection was taken and the amount of \$15.68 received.

The following pledges were taken for Missions:

CHURCHES.

Buelah (by individuals).....	\$10 00	Dallas Avenue	\$ 25 00
Charity East.....	5 00	" " (Bro Moseley)	15 00
Charity West.....	5 00	First Ch. (all purp.).....	200 00
Loeust Grove.....	25 00	Madison.....	5 00
Mt. Pisgah.....	5 00	Mt. Zion.....	50 00
New Zion.....	5 00	New Market.....	5 00
Piney Grove.....	10 00	Rice	25 00
Union Grove.....	5 00	Temperance Oak.....	5 00
West Huntsville.....	5 00	Mrs. C. H. Pettus.....	pd 2 00

Total, churches, 405.

By Eld. W. H. Pettus.

Resolved, That Eld. H. E. Rice and Perry Henderson be elected trustees of Trinity school. Carried.

By Eld. W. H. Pettus.

Resolved, That we have one more Fifth Sunday meeting. Carried.

By Eld. R. Brett.

Resolved, That hereafter the matter of employment of a Howard student be placed in the hands of the Executive Board.

Eld. H. E. Rice was chosen to represent this body in the Southern Baptist Convention, and Eld. N. D. Crutcher as alternate, and by motion the churches are to defray the expenses of the delegate.

Eld. R. Brett and R. E. Pettus were chosen as delegates to the State Convention.

It was moved by Eld. Mack Stamps that any of our body who are present at any meeting of the Associations with whom we correspond be authorized to represent us in the same.

The following was offered by Brother R. E. Pettus:

Resolved, That the unbounded thanks of this Association be now extended to the sisters and brothers of this church, and the community generally, for the openhearted manner in which they have received and entertained us.

Resolved further, That we will entreat the Father to bestow upon them His richest blessings, that they may grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord, and that He will finely save them and their children in the mansions above.

Carried by a rising vote.

The Association then adjourned to meet in 1901 with Mt Zion church, at such time as the Executive Board may determine. Prayer by Rutherford Brett.

J. P. HAMPTON, Moderator.

PERRY HENDERSON, Clerk.

WOMAN'S MEETING,

As previously arranged, Mrs. M. B. Neece, Associational Vice-President, called the Woman's meeting at half past one o'clock Friday, in Rice's Chapel. Some 25 ladies were present. After reading of 28th cap. of Matt, Mrs. M. E. Pettus of Huntsville led in prayer. Miss Mary Glein of Huntsville, was asked to act as Secretary of meeting. Only five delegates were present, and only two Missionary Societies were reported throughout the Association. This being the first Woman's meeting ever held in connection with a Liberty Association, Mrs. Neece spoke very enthusiastically of the work, and told the ladies what impelled her to call such meeting and explained the great importance of organization—keeping in touch with Central Committee and Union and having monies go through proper channels, getting credits desired and becoming known as it were. She also made clear the workings of Woman's Missionary Union, State Central Committee and their relations to our Boards.

The subjects of frontier boxes, as brought up and the manner

of arranging and sending same was explained fully. Mrs. Neece told of the great importance of this kind of work by women of the churches throughout the bounds of Southern Baptist Convention.

An earnest appeal was made in behalf of the Orphanage, and Mrs. Neece urged the ladies to consider the adoption of the children by the churches or Woman's Societies; also, be not forgetful of contributions.

One woman present took Foreign Mission Journal, and three or four were readers of the Alabama Baptist. Vice-President then spoke of the great information and benefit to be derived from reading these papers. Some present promised to consider the matter of organizing Missionary Societies when they returned home. After one hour, meeting adjourned to meet with Mt. Zion Church, September, 1901.

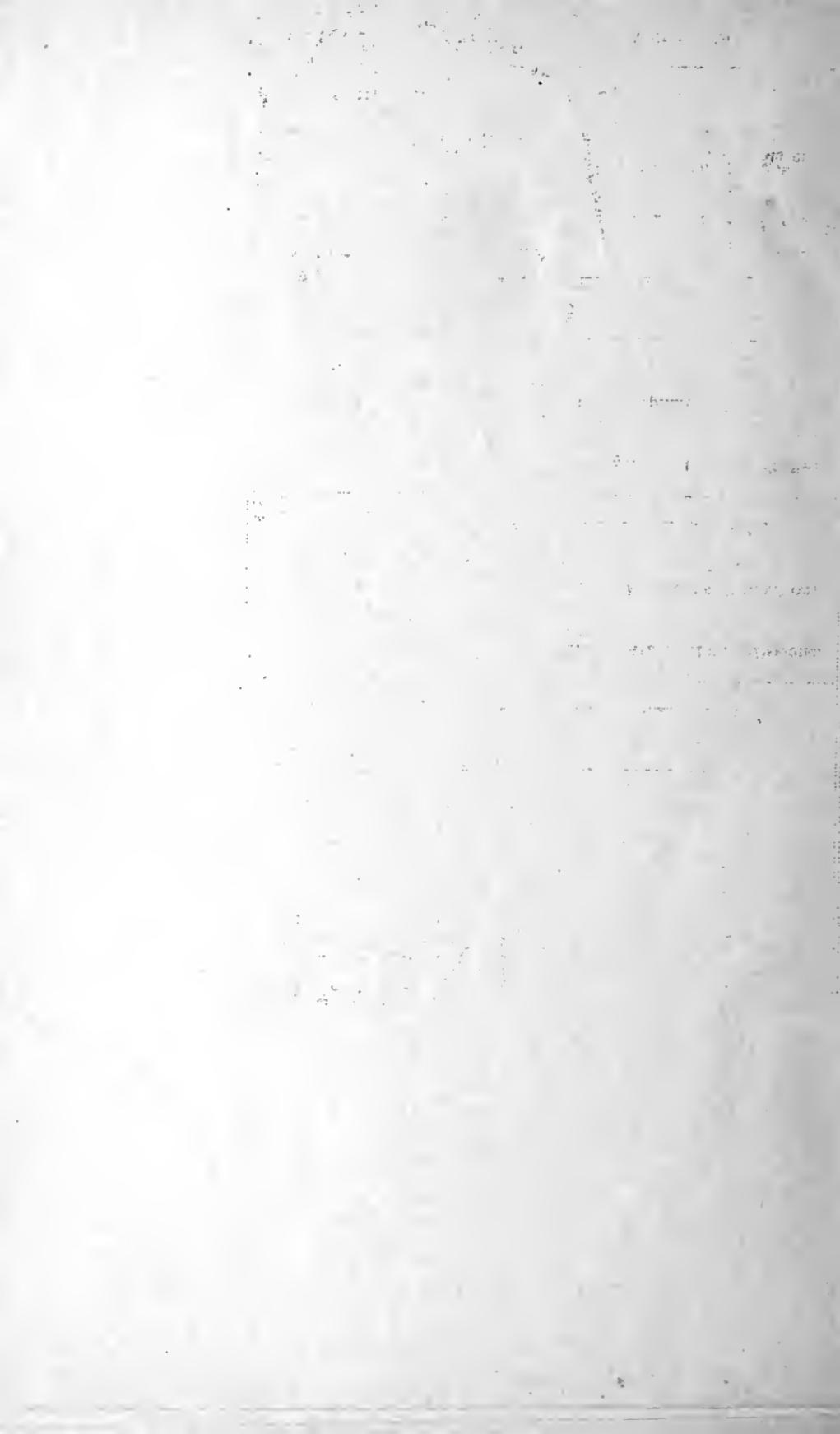
MISS MARY GLENN, Secretary.



STATISTICS OF THE LIBERTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR 1900.



FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF LIBERTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION FOR 1900



MUSIC

FOR BAPTIST CHURCHES
SUNDAY SCHOOLS, &c.
PRAYER MEETINGS, etc.

SURSUM CORDA

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